

From: Jud Meaders
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 8:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In the two months or so since I first wrote, nothing has happened to change my mind re your caving in to the Microsoft Corporation with your "proposed settlement." Microsoft continues its anti-competitive practices, seemingly with your blessing. They continue to use their monopoly position to leverage their way into other key areas of the economy. Again, with your blessing.

Does the public know that the federal government is Microsoft's largest customer? How is it, given the judgment against them, unanimously upheld, that the government continues to purchase products and services from them, and still keeps them on a preferred supplier list? Pardon my cynicism, but could it be their money and influence? What else could it be?

Does the public know that Microsoft has not paid ANY federal income taxes for at least the past two years, maybe longer? Do they know how Microsoft is doing that? Can you say non-expensed stock option grants? Do they know that Microsoft's internal auditor was fired several years ago because he wouldn't go along with what he considered securities fraud? That he received a \$4 million settlement with the company that included a gag order?

Given the penchant of this administration for secrecy, it may take us some time to find out just what the government's ties with Microsoft really are (how else to explain such a capitulation to an arrogant, unrepentant monopolist?). But I will do what I can to see that those ties are exposed, by writing letters such as this one, by staying informed, and by letting my elected Senators and Representatives know of my opinion. I am forwarding a copy of this e-mail to each of them.

Thank you for your time. I hope your future actions prove me wrong.
Jud Meaders